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The Christian Church

of Northern California-Nevada • Disciples of Christ

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Regarding Reverend Jim V. Jones
Pastor of People's Temple Christian Church

I consider it a privilege to be acquainted with, and to have the opportunity of working with, Reverend Jim Jones, the Pastor of the People's Temple Christian Church. As the President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada it has been my happy experience to work with Mr. Jones in a number of different ways. I've always been impressed by his integrity, his courage, and the very selfless way in which he commits himself and his congregation to serve people in need.

Pastor Jones has a great organizational ability. He has been largely responsible for the establishment of a large congregation of everyday human beings from all walks of life binding them together in a truly extraordinary commitment to human service. The ministries of this pastor and his congregation are staggering in scope and effectiveness. They include a very excellent drug rehabilitation program, a 40-acre ranch for mentally retarded boys, senior citizen's homes which have been cited for excellent care, emergency food and housing relief in three local communities, college scholarships for young people, and free legal counsel for the poor. These programs result in a very close knit group of people who really do carry out the admonition of Jesus as found in Matthew 25. You will remember the words there -- feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and minister to the sick and the imprisoned.

Pastor Jones is really committed to the very basic Judeo-Christian tradition which believes that the highest worship to God is our service to fellowman. He not only believes this; he lives this admonition.

The People's Temple Christian Church is a joyous congregation of human beings. Their meetings are serious in purpose and yet children and old people enjoy real places of honor. I, for one, covet for all churches the vitality and the spirit of this group of people.

There is an additional aspect to this extraordinary ministry which is just now getting underway through an extensive agricultural mission in South America. Thirty different crops have been planted there to help alleviate hunger in that part of the world.

I am aware that many other people have written to express appreciation and support for the practical and genuine Christianity practiced by Pastor Jones.

In summary, let me say, that Jim Jones is a very compassionate and dedicated human being. I am grateful that our paths have crossed and that we share together in the ministry of Jesus Christ. It is a pleasure and a privilege to write this letter of commendation and reference.

Very sincerely yours,

Karl Irvin Jr.

Karl Irvin, Jr.
Regional Minister-President

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